**STALBRIDGE SCOUT GROUP**

**CHAIRMANS REPORT - APRIL 2017 to MARCH 2018**

It has been another tremendously busy and successful year for the Group, as you will hear when the Section Leaders provide their reports. The Group remains ever popular in the community with each section running at maximum or close to maximum capacity.

The purpose of the Executive Committee is to provide and manage the facilities, infrastructure and resources that allow the sections to deliver exciting and varied programmes in a safe environment.

Janice will report on the detail of the accounts a bit later, but to successfully run the Group, each year we need to generate in the order of £10,000. To do this fund raising becomes an important role of the Committee and this was no exception again over the past year with a variety of events held, including Jumble Sales, Swimmarathon and the Bonfire and Firework display which the Group organises each year and is very well supported. These events not only generate vital funds but also help raise the profile of the Group within the Community.

However, for these events to be successful they require a lot of work and we do rely on volunteers to support and help. Disappointingly, for far too many of the fund raisers held it is the same faces who turn out to help (many of whom who are already heavily involved in the Group as Leaders or Officers). As a Group we need more parents of our members to help and support. It is very rewarding seeing what the Group offers through the sections and seeing many of the children progress from Beavers, into Cubs and right through to Scouts. I would encourage, if you can, to join the committee to help spread the load, and even if you can’t commit to that, would ask that you please put yourself forward to help at future fund raising events.

In addition, and perhaps more importantly, as a Group we are also in need of people to come forward to become leaders / assistant leaders, particular for our Beaver colony, where unfortunately two of our ASL have had to recently step down.

As a Group we had been considering the idea of starting a second Beaver colony, however, we have had to put plans on hold and focus on ensuring we can sustain the one colony. If you have an interest in becoming a leader or assistant leader or know of anyone who is then please come and talk to us. No Scouting knowledge is required, as full training would be provided. What is needed is enthusiasm, energy and a regular commitment of time each week. Being a leader can be hugely rewarding and a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills and meet people.

This year, we have approval for and will shortly be introducing our own Group badge. The badge design chosen is that of the Stalbridge flag. This we felt best reflected our link within the community. On behalf of the Group I would like to thank Mr Tony Wood for his kind permission to use. I was hoping to be in receipt of the badges for tonight’s meeting, but unfortunately, the badge makers are taking a little longer than planned. However, they should arrive shortly, where one will be issued to each member of the group.

Finally, I would like to end my report with a few thankyou’s.

- My fellow officers, Janice as Treasurer and Pip as Secretary for their hard work, commitment and support;

- Our Group Scout Leader, John Kerley for all his knowledge and support;

- All the leaders, assistant leaders, parent helpers across all the sections for their time and commitment each week;

- Fellow committee members for support;

- North Dorset District Scouts for their support guidance; and finally

- all the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who commit to the scouting programme each week

**Steve Forshaw**

**Chair – Stalbridge Scout Group**

**22nd May 2018**

**STALBRIDGE CUB PACK REPORT 2017-2018**

We currently have 26 Cubs on roll, with some due to join us from Beavers shortly.

During the year we have attended Remembrance Day Parade and service in the village, St. George's Day Parade and service at Sherborne where 3 Cubs were presented with their Chief Scout Silver Award, congratulations to Harry Lewis, Ollie Peach Bown and Harry Forshaw.

We had a sleepover at Lilliput Scout Bunk Room in Poole, 17 cubs attended, we went crabbing, visited Brownsea Island where the Cubs tackled the low ropes course, made fidget spinners with varying degrees of success, played games and generally had a good time.

In July we held our Summer Camp at Sixpenny Handley, our thanks to those parents who helped us set up camp in torrential rain and strong winds, fortunately the weather improved and we were able to do a hike, go to the woods and have a campfire without getting wet. The Cubs also made their own crabbing lines which they used at Mudeford, where we also visited the Lifeboat Station, and had an enjoyable day out ending with a fish and chip supper before heading back to camp.

In October the Cubs helped to organise and run a coffee morning with proceeds going to the RNLI station at Mudeford, they worked very hard and raised in excess of £160.00, well done everybody.

Badges we have planned for this year included, Scientist, Fire Safety, Home Safety, Astronomers, Athletes. We also do activities which cover elements of the Challenge badges of which there are 7.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark, Karen and Rob (who, unfortunately due to work commitments is unable to attend as often as he would like), also Emma and Kevin who turn up  to help on a regular basis, Emma and Adam who were brave enough to join us on Summer camp and everybody who has helped and supported us throughout the year.

Finally, the age old refrain, we have plenty of boys and girls who attend Cubs on a regular basis, but we need adults to help share the load, I can't promise it's only 1.5 hours a week, but most of the time it is fun and can be rewarding. I know you are busy people but if you can spare the time, Please volunteer.

Ange Brewer

**Stalbridge Troop annual report 2018**

The past twelve months for Stalbridge Scout Troop has overall been a successful one with numbers in the troop staying consistent throughout year with older ones leaving and being replaced with cubs coming up.

The leadership team consists of myself with Tony Laws and Vicky Moore as warranted leaders We also have Katie Blakeley as a young leader and Luke Baldry helps on a regular basis and is a great asset to the troop. So a great big thanks to him.

At the beginning of June 2014 we attended the district camping competition, the RAE Awards at Kavakay House although we did not win, we did give our best shot and held our heads high with the patrols that we entered, they did us proud, so a very well done to the teams that went. Hopefully in a couple weeks’ time we head there again with a team maybe even two or at least a team in training.

We have also been to Backwoods camp in October 2017 organised by the district where the scouts make a bivvi in the woods and no tents, cook on the open fire on the ground and generally have 24hrs in a cold and wet wood, great fun.

Summer camp last year was at BF adventure in Cornwall. We did lots of activities including climbing, canoeing, boldering and absailing. We also had a couple of days out in Falmouth and during this time visited the lifeboat station and we had a great time, my sincere thanks to the rest of the group and in particular Luke, Caroline Rikki, Mel and Tony without them, we would not have been able to run the camp. Our intention is to go again maybe next year

The troop have just attended trig tower tor in Sturminster with a senior and junior team attending. The senior team won and the junior team came second in their competition.

As well as the summer camp we have had activities during troop nights that have included:-

* Tent pitching
* Climbing at Sherbourne and Yeovil
* Fire Lighting
* Safety for knife, saw and axe
* Shooting
* BBQ at the Christmas light switch on,
* Pioneering
* Camp gadgets.
* Remembrance day parade in Stalbridge and St George’s day parade at Sherbourne with North and West Dorset districts.
* Hike night
* Archery
* Orienteering

We are looking forward to this year’s summer camp Jurassic international jamboree run by Dorset Scouts being held at Kingston Maurwood. Let’s just hope its dry. A big thankyou to both Emma Issacs who is coming as an adult helper and Katie Blakeley as young leader.

A great well done to Katie, Emma, Charlie, Joe and Harry for achieving his chief scouts gold award. I do look forward to being able to put a few more scouts forward for this award in the next year. Both Katie and Emma have carried on in Scouting with Explores and both are youn leaders here at Stalbridge. Katie in scouts and Emma with cubs.

We are always on the lookout for more scouts to come and join us as well as some adult help so if you do know any adult or young person that wants to get involved please do let us know.

If you do any questions please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

YIS

Paul.